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Edited by

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The Library Assistant:

The Official Organ of the Library Assistants' Association.

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APRIL, 1903.

Published Monthly

APRIL MEETING.

This meeting will be held at the Shoreditch Central Library, Pitfield Street, on Wednesday, April 22nd, at 8.0 p.m., by kind invitation of Mr. Plant, the Borough Librarian. Mr. G. E. Roe buck (Stepney) will read a paper entitled "Literature for the Blind and the Public Library Movement in connection therewith." This paper will be supplemented by a display of charts and specimens of embossed work in all its varieties; stereotyping plates; writing and arithmetic frames; embossed maps, etc. Mr. Roe buck proposes to review the origin, progress, and present standing of the several styles, and his paper should prove of interest and practical use to our members. Ladies are cordially invited. Trains to Old Street, City and South London Electric Railway.

MARCH MEETING.

This meeting was held at the St. George, Hanover Square, Public Library, Buckingham Palace Road, on the 25th ult., and was well attended. In accordance with notice given Mr. Savage moved: "That a brief report on the relations of the Library Association and the Library Assistants' Association, during the past three years, with regard to the education of library assistants, be read and circulated for discussion at the Annual Meeting, 1903; that a *précis* of all letters, with one exception, relating to the same subject be attached to such report, the exception, namely, a certain letter, unauthorised by this Association, pleading for a less severe examination, and protesting against the 'open door' to be transcribed in full."

The motion was seconded by Mr. Philip, and supported by Messrs. Harris, Lewin, Pickard, Rivers, and Stevenson; Messrs. Chambers, Hatcher, McDouall, Rees, Thorne, and Wood opposing it. After a prolonged discussion the motion was put to the meeting and declared carried by 16 votes to 9.

The Chairman then called upon Mr. R. B. Wood, who opened a discussion on "Bookbinding for Public Libraries." After some remarks on a Form of Contract, he expressed the opinion that the Library Association should draw up a model specification for library binding. He described the various methods of binding used at the St. George's Libraries, and gave the results of his experience of the different materials, etc. He thought that Persian morocco did not deserve the bad name given to it by the Society of Arts Committee, and considered it eminently suitable for lending library work. He complained of the crude and inartistic finishing of most library binders, and had felt the want of some simple, neat designs for reference library bindings. He also touched on such points as tight backs and loose backs, and the special cases under which either were preferable.

Unfortunately, owing to the time taken up in discussing the motion at the opening of the meeting, Mr. Wood was unable to deal with his subject so fully as he had intended, and in consequence much interesting and valuable information was denied his audience. In the short time that remained after he had concluded, Messrs. Chambers, Harris, Hatcher, Philip, Rivers, Roberts, Savage, and Stevenson related their ideas and experiences on several points. It was suggested that as Mr. Wood had not been able to finish his remarks, he should continue on another occasion—a suggestion which met the approval of all present.

On the motion of Mr. Rees, seconded by Mr. Philip, the thanks of the meeting were gratefully accorded to Mr. Wood for his remarks, to the Library Committee for permission to meet there, and to Mr. Pacy for his kind welcome and hospitality.

At the conclusion of the meeting copies of the Souvenir of the Library Association Conference at Wigan in 1898 were distributed, this being a gift of the Library Supply Company, per Mr. W. W. Fortune, to whom the cordial thanks of the Association are offered.

T.

NORTH WESTERN BRANCH.

MARCH MEETING.

This meeting was held in the Central Library, Oldham, on Wednesday, the 25th ult., Mr. J. H. Swann presiding.

On arrival the members were shown through the Art Gallery and inspected the Annual Spring Exhibition of Pictures, afterwards proceeding to the Assistants' Room, when Mr. Haworth read the paper, "The Educational Basis of the Free Library Movement." In the course of the paper he traced briefly the development of the Library Movement from the passing of the Public Library Act down to the present time, showing the educational benefits derived by the gathering together of the best books and pictures by Municipal Corporations.

After a vigorous discussion by Mr. Bateman, Miss Alley, Messrs. Berry, Kirk, Percival, Shawcross, Swann, Quaraby, and a brief reply from Mr. Haworth, the best thanks of the meeting were tendered to Mr. Haworth for the paper, and to Mr. Bateman and Staff for the privilege of meeting at Oldham and for their hospitality.

APRIL MEETING.

The next meeting will be held in the Reference Library, King Street, Manchester, on April 21st, at 8 o'clock, when the paper by Mr. E. G. Rees, "The Educational Needs of Library Assistants," will be read for discussion.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To THE EDITOR OF *The Library Assistant*.

DEAR SIR,

Mr. Glazier appears to object to my criticism of his use of the term "female." The word he should have used is "women" assistants. Although "lady" is in this case incorrect, "female" is not only incorrect but insulting, inasmuch as it is used by the best writers to denote physical differences in sex.

I would also point out to Mr. Glazier that "anticipated developments" are not "bygone experiments."

Yours faithfully,

A. J. PHILIP.

March 16th, 1903.

FIFTH ANNUAL SOCIAL GATHERING.

Under the auspices of the Entertainment Sub-Committee a most successful Bohemian Concert was held on the 18th March, at Temple Bar, where some 90 members and friends foregathered. Mr. Evan G. Rees, Chairman of the L.A.A., occupied the chair, and was supported by Mr. Thomas Mason, Mr. Z. Moon, Mr. F. Meaden Roberts, the Hon. Treasurer, and others. The musical programme was long and varied, and its excellent quality was testified to by all. Mr. O'Dell, of the Savage Club, who was introduced by Mr. Mason, charmed the company with a recitation entitled, "An Ode to a Goose," and as an encore he gave a humorous song which was irresistible.

The humorous songs of Messrs. A. Gamgee, W. G. Hawkins (Fulham), A. Lanham, and F. Schofield (Battersea) added greatly to the enjoyment of those present, whilst the admirably rendered songs of Miss May Marelle, Miss F. North (Battersea), and Messrs. A. Cogswell (Balham), C. Collins, C. J. Courtney (Minet), A. Howes, A. J. Moorco, W. Rees, W. J. Vellenoweth (Camberwell), and W. B. Young (Leyton), were much appreciated. Instrumental music was represented by Mr. A. M. Moslin (Stepney), Mr. A. H. Crouch, and Mr. F. C. Chidgey, who gave violin, cornet, and mandoline solos respectively. Mr. A. S. Crouch, with his customary kindness, presided at the piano.

Credit is due to Mr. C. A. Bradley, the Hon. Secretary of the Committee, for the satisfactory management of the arrangements.

C.

STUDY CIRCLE.

As the questions set in the February number made perhaps a greater demand upon the time and ability of the students than any previous questions, it is gratifying to us to record that, so far from there being a diminution in the number of answers received, there has been an increase. Question (9) on the whole has not produced much noticeable work, the students confining themselves to the pound of flesh demanded, and refusing to make further inroads in a search after "etc." Question (10) on the other hand, has brought out some original ideas, and the plans generally were very creditable. The second part of the question called up several eccentricities, and one plan was distinctly reminiscent of the maze at Hampton Court. The position of the staircase caused some trouble, but only one student cut the Gordian Knot by omitting it altogether. Most of the plans were carefully drawn to scale, a very commendable feature.

Aedifico (9). 15.—Good. Might have been fuller.

(10) 15.—(a). Reference readers have to traverse newsroom. Librarian's office badly placed. Insufficient space between presses in lending department, 2-ft. 6ins. (b) Boys' Room too large. Newsroom too small. Shelves scattered. Stairs not wide enough, 4-ft. Shape of reference book store very awkward.

Benedick (9) 13.—Wants precision. "Punctuation is left to the cataloguer's discretion"!

(10) 8.—(a) Not bad. Bookcases of 20-ft. are too long. (b) Not attempted.

Bretton (9) 11.—Vague and rather careless. Three errors in grammar and spelling.

Constantia (9) 9.—Neither systematic nor complete.

(10) 16.—(a) Good; 900 square feet of corridor is liberal. Wall cases are preferable in reference departments. (b) Supervision on first floor difficult. Boys' rooms ought to be on ground floor.

Index (9) 13.—Not sufficiently detailed or explicit. Very liberal with caps.

(10) 13.—(a) Badly arranged. Insufficient shelving: wall space ought to be utilised for presses and news slopes. Entrances badly placed. (b) News-room too small. The only entrance is through the lending department. Most of the other rooms have no apparent entrances. On the second floor the landing appears in the centre of the reference counter.

Papyrus (9) 19.—Very good.

(10) 9.—The reverse. (a) Lavatories take up 675 square feet, corridors 1,150, a total of 1,825 square feet out of 9,600. The news and magazine rooms are very inadequate, and it is no wonder. (b) The two floors are of entirely different shapes, and we cannot imagine any method by which they may be joined—which renders immaterial the fact that no staircase is provided. As to interior economy, the news-room is half the size of the reference, which has an eccentric fringe of bookcases jutting from the walls at every conceivable absurd angle.

Nil Desperandum (9) 8.—Reads like a bad copy of *Constantia*; we apologize if our suspicions are unfounded.

(10) 10.—(a) Librarian poked away in a corner. Too much counter (260-ft.). Newsroom and reference too small for size of building. (b) Great waste of space throughout; one third of ground floor taken up by hall.

Retval (9) 19.—Very good and well arranged.

(10) 16.—(a) Has many good points; would be improved, we think, by the lending department changing places with the news-room and the reference with the magazine room. No office for Librarian. (b) Nearly three-quarters of floor taken up by hall and lending department. This should be reduced and the space thus gained thrown into news-room.

QUESTIONS.

(13).—Give the Dewey numbers for twelve of the following works:

<i>Pearson.</i>	"The chances of death."
<i>Ball.</i>	"Story of the heavens."
<i>Ruskin.</i>	"Eagle's nest."
<i>Lang.</i>	"Queen of the air."
<i>Ribot.</i>	"Cock Lane and common-sense."
<i>Lavater.</i>	"Diseases of memory."
<i>Stephen.</i>	"Essays on physiognomy."
<i>Watson.</i>	"The English utilitarians."
<i>Guest.</i>	"The mind of the master."
<i>Machiavelli.</i>	"Mabinogion."
<i>Bardsley.</i>	"The Prince."
<i>Frazer.</i>	"English surnames."
	"The golden bough."

<i>Bickerdyke.</i>	"Curiosities of ale and beer."
<i>Cox.</i>	"Continuous-current dynamos and motors."
<i>Crocker and Wheeler.</i>	"Practical management of dynamos and motors."
<i>Grimwood.</i>	"My three years in Manipur."
<i>Williams.</i>	"Round London."

(14).—Name the headings under which each of the twelve books should appear in a dictionary catalogue.

Answers should be sent not later than the 30th inst. to Mr. R. B. Wood, Public Library, Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W., signed by a pseudonym.

With these questions the Circle closes. A final report on the whole session will appear in the June number.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Exeter.—A porter in the employ of the Royal Albert Memorial Public Library has been sentenced to six months imprisonment for stealing books, drawings, engravings, etc., to the value of £100. The discovery of the thefts was due to an inventory being taken by the recently appointed librarian, Mr. H. Tapley Soper. As the accused showed great regret and rendered considerable assistance in the recovery of the property he was dealt with as leniently as the law would allow.

Library Association.—An examination in Cataloguing, Classification, and Shelf Arrangement (Section 2 of the Examination Syllabus) will be held on Wednesday, May 6th, 1903. Intending candidates must send in their names to Mr. H. D. Roberts, 44a, Southwark Bridge Road, S.E., by Saturday, April 25th. Centres will be arranged to suit the convenience of the candidates.

Stoke Newington.—There is a proposal afoot for the establishment of a museum in connection with the public library; the gift of a valuable collection of objects having been offered by Aske's Schools, Shoreditch. A farthing rate is suggested.

NEW BOOKS, &c.

Bootle Free Library, Museum and Technical School Journal. March. (C. H. HUNT, Librarian).

Contains eighteen pages of literary matter and four of additions to the Library—a somewhat unusual proportion. Cannot some local genius design a more artistic cover for this welcome little journal?

Croydon Public Libraries: The Reader's Index. March and April. (L. S. JAST, Librarian).

Contains the usual pithily annotated list of additions, and a really valuable annotated Reading List of books in the Libraries on Education, compiled by Mr. Robert Stevenson, of the L.A.A. We venture to think, however, that the abbreviations are somewhat overdone.

Descriptive Guide to the Best Fiction, British and American; including Translations from foreign languages; containing about 4,500 references; with copious indexes and a historical appendix. By ERNEST A. BAKER, M.A. (Lond.). (Swan, Sonnenschein & Co., Ltd. Pp. vii. + 610. 8vo. 8s. 6d. net).

Last month it was our privilege to notice a similar work by Mr. Jonathan Nield, now comes this monument of industry by the Librarian of the Midland Railway Institute. We suppose it is the outcome of his "Descriptive Handbook to Noteworthy Works of Fiction" published in 1899; be that as it may, the present volume will be a valuable aid to librarians, and we gratefully thank Mr. Baker for it. We notice that it has already been spoken well of in the daily Press, and it is fully deserving of all the praise it gets. First, there are 190 pages, giving short, succinct notes on the principal English fiction of the 19th century, then Scottish, Irish, American, Belgian, Dutch, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Scandinavian, Finnish, Slavonic, Russian, Spanish, and Portuguese fiction is dealt with in the same way. An historical chronological appendix follows in the same order, after which is an index of authors and titles with a subject index in conclusion. We wish we had space to quote some of the annotations, or descriptions, which give a brief outline of the plot, a note on the style, and generally an estimate of the literary or historical value of the work, but under the circumstances this is impossible. We may add that to each note is also appended the best available editions; the publisher's name; the price and the date of first publication. This work must, we feel, become one of the most valued of a librarian's "tools," and we congratulate the compiler on the results of his labour. This copy will be placed in the L.A.A. Library.

Leyton Public Library Magazine. February. (Z. MOON, Librarian).

Annotated list of additions, and an interesting biographical note on an old Essex worthy, Thomas Tusser. We notice that this individual's second wife was a daughter of Edmund Moon, and we wonder if this was an ancestor of the genial Leyton Librarian.

Pratt Institute Free Library and Brooklyn Public Library: Co-operative Bulletin. February.

Revista delle Biblioteche e degli Archivi. February.

Revue des Bibliothèques et Archives de Belgique. No. 1, January—February. (Rédacteur, L. STAINIER).

A journal for the review of library matters and affairs connected with the preservation and registration of local historical documents in Belgium. The address "à nos lecteurs" runs into six pages and sets forth a rather ambitious programme, which will be instructive and useful if carried out.

We wish the venture success and hope to have the opportunity of noticing future issues. One article in this first number gives an account of the tercentenary celebrations at the Bodleian Library.

APPOINTMENTS.

- ***MARRIOTT**, Mr. E., Assistant, Portico Library, Manchester, to be Librarian.
- ***McDOUGALL**, Mr. D., Public Library, Canning Town, to be Assistant-in-Charge of the Passmore Edwards Public Library, Plaistow, E.
- ***FRETTON**, Mr. H. W., Central Library, West Ham, to be Second Assistant at the Public Library, Canning Town.
- LUCY**, Miss, Chief Assistant, Worcester Public Library, to be Librarian of Great Malvern.
- NEWCOMBE**, Mr. C. F., of Toynbee Hall, to be Assistant Librarian, Central Library, Camberwell.
- ***SHARP**, Mr. E. T., Public Library, Canning Town, to be Second Assistant at the Passmore Edwards Library, Plaistow.

* Members of the L.A.A.

NEW MEMBER.

Junior.—Mr. STEPHEN LAUGHTON, Derby.

APPOINTMENTS VACANT.

[**Notice to Library Authorities**.—We shall be pleased to publish under this heading, free of charge, particulars of vacancies if full details are sent to the Editor on or before the 28th of each month.]

NOTICES.

All subscriptions are now due, and should be forwarded at once to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. W. G. Chambers, Public Library, Woolwich, S.E.

All matter for May Journal should be sent to the Hon. Editor before April 20th.

All other communications should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. G. E. Roebuck, PUBLIC LIBRARY, 236, CABLE STREET, E.

NEW TECHNICAL WORKS.

Sealing-Waxes, Wafers, and other Adhesives for the Household, Office, Workshop and Factory. By H. C. STANDAGE. Crown 8vo. 96 pp. 1902. 5s. net.

India-Rubber and Gutta-Percha in their Botanical, Mechanical, Chemical and Electrical Aspects. Translated from the French by J. G. MCINTOSH. Royal 8vo. 412 pp. 1903. 12s. 6d. net.

Evaporating, Condensing and Cooling Apparatus. Explanations, Formulae and Tables for Use in Practice. By E. HAUSBRAND. Translated from German by A. C. WRIGHT, M.A., B.Sc. 400 pp. Demy 8vo. 1903. 10s. 6d. net.

Timber. A Comprehensive Study of Wood in all its Aspects (Commercial and Botanical), showing the different Applications and Uses of Timber in Various Trades, etc. Translated from the French by PAUL CHARPENTIER. Royal 8vo. 179 Illustrations. About 500 pp. 12s. 6d. net.

The Manufacture of Preserved Fruits and Sweetmeats. A Handbook of all the Processes for the Preservation of Flesh, Fruit and Vegetables, and for the Preparation of Dried Fruit, Dried Vegetables, Marmalades, Fruit-Syrups and Fermented Beverages, and of all kinds of Candies, Candied Fruit, Sweetmeats, Rocks, Drops, Dragées, Pralines, etc. By A. HOUSNER. 28 Ill. Translated from the German. Crown 8vo. 7s. 6d. net.

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Siderology : The Science of Iron. The Constitution of Iron Alloys and Slags. Translated from the German of HAUNNS FREIHERR V. JUPTNER. 550 pp. Demy 8vo. 11 Plates and 10 Illustrations. 10s. 6d.

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